

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the indicated paragraphs of the specification in accordance with the amendments indicated below.

Page 1: Between the Title and the 1st full paragraph, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

1st full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

The invention ~~starts out from~~ relates to an input multiplexer (IMUX) ~~of the type described in the main claim.~~ This input multiplexer splits a broad frequency band into a series of narrow frequency bands. This is accomplished by filtering each frequency channel with a bandpass filter. In each case, the filters have an input and an output and must be connected suitably with one another.

Page 3: 3rd full paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, amend as indicated below:

The arrangements for coupling bandpass filters, described so far, are used in the IMUX equipment. However, in order to understand the invention, a further device, the OMUX, must also be taken into consideration. This is similar to the

IMUX, in that it does not ~~bring together~~ split a broad frequency band into a series of narrower frequency channels, but, conversely, combines a series of narrower frequency channels into a broad frequency band. However, it is clearly different from IMUX, since it must process signals of a much higher power (in the OMUX, approximately 100 W per frequency channel, in the IMUX, approximately 1 mW per channel) and it is therefore a primary design objective to minimize losses. In comparison to the IMUX, it is simpler in the case of the OMUX that the individual bandpass filters only have to satisfy requirements, which are less strict and can generally be all observed with filters of a low circuit order (4 or 5). In particular, it is usually not necessary to take measures to ensure a flat course of the group running time within the pass band. In order to achieve low losses, the individual bandpass filters of the OMUX are combined with a busbar, as described in US patent 4,614,920. This consists exclusively of conducting pieces of suitable length and therefore has only low losses. The busbar combines bandpass filters, which are immediately adjacent to one another in the frequency space. For this reason, the arrangement is considered to be contiguous.

Page 4: Before the 1st full paragraph, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

1st full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

On the other hand, the inventive input multiplexer ~~with the characterizing, distinguishing features of the main claim,~~ has the advantage that high circuit order bandpass filters, which, at the same time, satisfy strict requirements with respect to flank steepness and little variation in the group running time within the pass band, are connected into an IMUX by means of a low-loss bus bar consisting exclusively of conducting pieces of optimized length. Moreover, the bandpass filters have zero positions in the transmission function on the imaginary frequency axis close to the pass band in order to improve the flank steepness, and, in addition to the running time equalization, have either an external running time equalizer or further zero positions in the transmission function with a finite real part or a combination thereof.

Page 5: 7th full paragraph, amend as indicated below:

Further advantages and advantageous developments of the invention are given in the following description, the drawing and the claims. ~~In the drawing~~

Page 6: Before the 1st full paragraph, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS: